



Academy for  
**LIFELONG LEARNING**  
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[www.aikenlearning.org](http://www.aikenlearning.org)

The  
*Spiral*

FEBRUARY, 2015

### President's Message

Mark your calendar with the date for the Kauffman Award luncheon. It is planned for April 23, 2015 at noon, on the USCA campus (Room 116 of the B&E Building). All members of the Academy will be invited. There is no additional charge (it's included in your Academy membership), but an RSVP will be required. More details will be forthcoming later in the semester.

One of our courses, *Touring Historic Aiken*, which began January 5th, was extremely popular. There are 58 members enrolled in the class and another 41 members on the wait list. The instructor has agreed to do a second section of the class, which will meet on four Mondays, February 9, 16, and 23, and March 2, from 10:00-10:50 AM, in B&E Room 124. The people on the wait list are being emailed directly. Any other members of the Academy interested in enrolling in this "second section" class should send an e-mail to [info@aikenlearning.org](mailto:info@aikenlearning.org) (or 803-641-3563, but e-mail is preferred).

For several years, the Academy has had opera courses where the content of each course is related to operas scheduled to be performed by the New York City Metropolitan Opera Company during the next few months and telecast in high definition in movie theaters across the county (including one of the screens of the Regal Cinema at The Exchange center in Augusta). One of our courses that begins in February is titled *Two Ballets – 'Romeo and Juliet' and 'Chopiniana'*. The content in this course is related to a performance of the Russian National Ballet Theater at the Etherredge Center on March 5th. As described in our Spring Semester catalog, there is an option for Academy members to obtain group discounts for the March 5th performance (this option will be discussed during one of the class sessions). This class did not have a wait list as of mid-January. Any Academy members paid up for the current semester who are not already registered, but who are interested in enrolling can send an e-mail to [info@aikenlearning.org](mailto:info@aikenlearning.org) (or 803-641-3563, but e-mail is preferred).

This semester, several of our classes are in Room

124 of the B&E Building. This room has what might be called stadium seating, where the "back rows" are on elevated tiers. Some of our members would prefer to sit in the front ("ground level") row of seats (or in the second row) because of mobility, vision, or hearing issues. It will be considerate if members who do not have such issues would try to sit behind those first two rows (unless, of course, the rows farther back are full).

As some members know, the Academy Board and Curriculum Committee have been struggling during the last few months with several issues related to classroom assignments. Fallout from these issues is likely to have some impact on the Fall Semester 2015 class schedule. We may begin our classes a week or two later than has been our practice in the past. For Spring Semester 2016, we may be starting 3 to 4 weeks later than has been our practice in the past. This shouldn't affect the number (or quality) of our classes. They will just run later into the calendar for each semester than they have in the past.

*Carl Fields, Academy President*

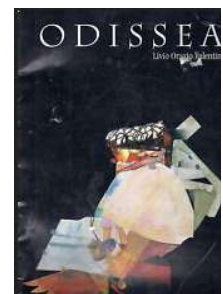
### Upcoming February Course Highlights the Work of former USCA Visiting Professor



The American debut of noted artist, sculptor, and author Livio Orazio Valentini (1920-2008) took place here in Aiken at USCA in 1997, thanks in part to a "Sister City" partnership he helped found between Aiken and Valentini's home city, Orvieto, Italy. He stayed here for a time and presented his "Odissea" exhibition dedicated to

the University. He returned in 1999 for a semester as guest lecturer and artist-in-residence. After exhibiting at the Charleston Spoleto Festival in 2001, he again returned to Aiken in 2003 to receive an honorary Fine Arts degree from USCA. Some of his works are housed at the University.

Former USCA Chancellor Dr.



Robert Alexander and Professor Emeritus Dr. John Elliot will present a class in two sessions on February 20 and 27 dedicated to the life and works of Maestro Valentini. Academy members may find this of particular interest due to Valentini's connection with USCA and Aiken.

At this writing there are still openings available for this course.

### Courses Beginning This Month

Please see the published catalog for full descriptions and additional information. (You can find the Spring 2015 catalog on the Academy website at <http://www.aikenlearning.org/catalog/>). To enroll, return the form in the catalog along with any required payment. For questions, contact USCA Department of Continuing Education at USCA (803-641-3563 / [info@aikenlearning.org](mailto:info@aikenlearning.org)).

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** Do NOT attend these classes or events unless you have pre-registered AND received written confirmation of your registration from USCA.

#### TWO BALLETS – ROMEO & JULIET AND CHOPINIANA

Dates: 2 Tuesdays & 2 Thursdays, February 3, 5, 10 & 12

Time: 1:40-2:55 P.M.

Location: Penland Admin. Bldg., Rm. 110

Enrollment Limit: 45

#### THE INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION

Dates: 4 Tuesdays, February 3, 10, 24 & March 3

Time: 3:05-4:20 P.M.

Location: Penland Admin. Bldg., Rm. 110

**Enrollment Limit Reached - Closed and waitlisted**

#### LINE DANCING FOR BEGINNERS

Dates: 6 Wednesdays, February 4, 11, 18, 25 & March 4, 11

Time: 11:00 - 12:15 P.M.

Location: USCA Business & Education Bldg., 2nd fl. Gym

#### THE MYSTERY OF MURDER AND THE MURDER OF MYSTERY

Dates: 4 Fridays, February 6, 13, 20 & 27

Time: 2:00-2:50 P.M.

Location: Penland Admin. Bldg., Rm. 110

**Enrollment Limit Reached - Closed and waitlisted**

#### TOURING HISTORIC AIKEN – Repeat Sessions

Dates: 4 Mondays, February 9, 16, 23 & Mar. 2

Time: 10:00 - 10:50 A.M.

Location: Business & Education Bldg., Rm. 124

#### HOW TO THINK LIKE EINSTEIN

Dates: 4 Mondays, February 9, 16, 23 & March 2

Time: 11:00 – 11:50 A.M.

Location: Business & Education Bldg., Rm. 124

Enrollment Limit: 58

#### THE NEW COLD WAR: RUSSIA AND ITS

BORDERLANDS (This is a repeat of the popular Fall 2014 course for those who were waitlisted or otherwise could not attend.)

Dates: 4 Mondays, February 9, 16, 23, & March 2

Time: 3:00-3:50 P.M.

Location: Business & Education Bldg., Rm. 124

Enrollment Limit: 58

#### WINE EDUCATION

Date: Tuesday, February 17

Time: 6:00 – 7:30 P.M.

Location: Stoplight Deli, 119 Laurens Street, NW, Aiken, SC

Enrollment Limit: 25

#### DOCUMENTING THE LIFE OF LIVIO ORAZIO VALENTINI

Dates: 2 Fridays, February 20 & 27

Time: 10:00 - 10:50 A.M.

Location: Penland Admin. Bldg., Rm. 110

Enrollment Limit: 45

### Academy on the Road



*Academy President Carl Fields poses at the American Museum of Natural History in New York City on 13 Dec 2014.*

Shown with Carl is "Lonesome George", the last known indi-

vidual of the Pinta Island subspecies of Galapagos Islands Tortoise (died June 2012), whose remains were sent to the museum for preservation. After an exhibition period in New York, George will be returned to Ecuador, where he was a national treasure during his life, and probably will continue to be one after his death.

To have *your* travel pictures shown in *The Spiral*, take your Academy Logo apparel or accessories with you when you travel. Then take a photo in some interesting locale featuring you with a visible and recognizable Academy logo. Attach the photo to an email and send it to [spiral@aikenlearning.org](mailto:spiral@aikenlearning.org).

## January 16 Board Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 12:30 pm by President Carl Fields.

Present: President Carl Fields, Past President Doug Cook, Treasurer Laura Anderson, Publicity Chair Nancy Meinhardt

Absent: Secretary Doug Wilson, Curriculum Chair Jan VanSlyke, Membership Chair Sherry Wilson

### MINUTES

The minutes of the October board meeting, as published in the January issue of *The Spiral*, were approved as published.

### TREASURER'S REPORT - Laura Anderson

The Treasurers Report was distributed. We continue solidly in the black.

### CURRICULUM COMMITTEE – Doug Cook reporting for Jan VanSlyke

Jan was unable to attend due to recent hip surgery.

The Committee meeting last week was productive. We have added 3 new members to the committee – Harriet Haynes, and Howard & Kitty Doughty. Kathy Cook has resigned her participation, for now.

We currently have about 37 courses in development for the Fall 2015 semester, with a broad range of topics.

The current "Touring Historic Aiken" with Marty Bailey class has 41 on a waitlist. Marty, in casual conversation, has agreed to repeat the course at the same time and day as the current course, beginning February 9 (4 sessions).

Carl also asked that a poll be taken of the 16 waitlisted members for the "Solar System Adventure Tour" to see if there is sufficient interest in repeating this course on March 17, 2015, provided the planetarium is available. Carl will oversee this.

Now that Spring semester classroom assignments are set, the possibility of moving current overfilled classes to larger venues on campus was discussed. We have 7 classes with significant waitlists. Laura will develop a list of current classes, times and dates, and identify with the room coordinator any possibility for eliminating waitlists for those classes beginning in mid-February.

Our classroom assignment difficulties are likely to continue for Fall 2015. Doug mentioned that the curriculum members will try to schedule as many classes as possible on Fridays, as the campus is much more available for us on that weekday.

### MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Enrollment this semester shows 176 semester registrations plus 28 yearlong members for a total Spring semester enrollment of 204.

### PUBLICITY COMMITTEE – Nancy Meinhardt

Nancy passed around the December issue of the *Life In Woodside* magazine. It contained a very well done 2-page spread with photos of Woodside residents who participate in the Academy. She mentioned that Cedar Creek has a similar publication, but any write-up with photos would require a resident of Cedar Creek to accomplish the creation of any such article for us. Laura suggested contacting Ken Brace as our advocate and active

"Creeker".

Nancy is also beginning the process of setting up our summer concert sponsorship in Hopelands in August, as we did last year. We agreed that the concert should be the same group (Savannah Winds) that is of interest for our membership.

### OLD BUSINESS

#### *Kauffman Recognition Day*

Doug noted that plans are proceeding for the luncheon, and Carl reminded us all that we have awarded 2 spring semester scholarships to alternative students (adults and with families). We will award 2 full year scholarships for the 2015-2016 school year, again focused on alternative students with needs.

#### *USCA Support Staff Status*

Carl sent us all the replacement job description for Mary Ann Cavanaugh's former position. It contains several additional responsibilities beyond the past "Director – External Programs, Life-long Learning, Cont. Ed. & Workforce Development" job description.

The University selection committee has telephone interviewed 5 candidates, and the committee is ranking them. In a few weeks 3 candidates will be on campus for further interviews, and hopefully, a decision will be forthcoming.

Carl indicated that while this is moving along, USCA is very close to selecting the Administrative Assistant for the Director! It seems unusual to all of us, but that is the current status as we know it.

### ADJOURNMENT

We adjourned at 1:30pm, with the next meeting scheduled for February 20, 2015, at 12:30pm in 102 B&E.



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*The Spiral* is published monthly during the academic year by the Academy for Lifelong Learning at the University of South Carolina Aiken, 471 University Parkway, Aiken, SC 29801. 803-641-3563. Doug Wilson, Editor

**Academy Officers:** President: Carl Fields; Past President: Doug Cook; President Elect: (vacant); Secretary: Doug Wilson; Treasurer: Laura Anderson.

**Committee Chairpersons:** Curriculum Chair; Jan VanSlyke; Curriculum Chair-Elect: (vacant); Publicity Chair: Nancy Meinhardt; Membership Chair: Sherry Wilson

**Ex-officio Members:** Dr. Tim Lintner, Faculty Liaison; Dr. Deidre Martin, Vice Chancellor for University Advancement.

**Academy on the Web:** <http://www.aikenlearning.org>

ACADEMY CALENDAR – FEBRUARY 2015						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2 <i>Historic Aiken</i> 10:00-10:50a [B 124]  <i>Live From the Met</i> 11:00a-12:30p [B 124]  <i>Quintet of Artists</i> 1:00-1:50p [B 124]	3 <i>Oscar Wilde</i> 12:15-1:30p [P 110]  <i>Two Ballets</i> 1:40—2:55p [P 110]  <i>Industrial Revolution</i> 3:05-4:20p [P 110]	4 <i>Beginning Drawing</i> 9:00-9:50a [P 110]  <i>Line Dancing</i> 11:00a-12:15p [B 2nd floor gym]  <i>Freedom!</i> 3:00-3:50p [CC]	5 <i>Design Your Space</i> 12:15-1:30p [P 110]  <i>Two Ballets</i> 1:40—2:55p [P 110]	6 <i>Curric. Committee</i> 10:00a [B 102]  <i>Mystery of Murder</i> 2:00-2:50p [P 110]	7
8	9 <i>Think Like Einstein</i> 11:00-11:50a [B 124]  <i>New Cold War</i> 3:00-3:50p [B 124]	10 <i>Oscar Wilde</i> 12:15-1:30p [P 110]  <i>Two Ballets</i> 1:40—2:55p [P 110]  <i>Industrial Revolution</i> 3:05-4:20p [P 110]	11 <i>Line Dancing</i> 11:00a-12:15p [B 2nd floor gym]  <i>Freedom!</i> 3:00-3:50p [CC]	12 <i>Two Ballets</i> 1:40—2:55p [P 110]	13 <i>Mystery of Murder</i> 2:00-2:50p [P 110]	14
15	16 <i>Think Like Einstein</i> 11:00-11:50a [B 124]  <i>New Cold War</i> 3:00-3:50p [B 124]	17 <del><i>Industrial Revolution</i></del> [No class]  <i>Wine Education</i> 6:00-7:30p [Stoplight Deli]	18 <i>Line Dancing</i> 11:00a-12:15p [B 2nd floor gym]  <i>Freedom!</i> 3:00-3:50p [CC]	19	20 <i>Board Meeting</i> 12:30p [B 102]  <i>Livio Orazio Valentini</i> 10:00-10:50a [P 110]  <i>Mystery of Murder</i> 2:00-2:50p [P 110]	21
22	23 <i>Think Like Einstein</i> 11:00-11:50a [B 124]  <i>New Cold War</i> 3:00-3:50p [B 124]	24 <i>Industrial Revolution</i> 3:05-4:20p [P 110]	25 <i>Line Dancing</i> 11:00a-12:15p [B 2nd floor gym]	26	27 <i>Livio Orazio Valentini</i> 10:00-10:50a [P 110]  <i>Mystery of Murder</i> 2:00-2:50p [P 110]	28
[Location Codes] B = Bus & Educ Bldg @ USCA H = Hum & Soc Sci Bldg @ USCA RP = Ruth Patrick Sci Ctr @ USCA N = Nursing Bldg @ USCA P = Penland Bldg @ USCA CC = Cedar Creek Community Building						